

PPOVA Updates January 2008



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Office of Minority Health and Public
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Thank you for subscribing to "PPOVA Updates," a service that provides updates about opportunities posted on Virginia's FREE healthcare recruitment website, [Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia](#).

The Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia (www.PPOVA.org) website has a new look! We hope that the new design will make it easier for users to find the information they want and to provide a better overall experience. During the year, we plan to add more information and additional features, so we encourage you to visit the site often.

If you need to report broken links or any other functions that are not working properly, please email the [PPOVA Webmaster](#).

Recruitment and Retention Collaborative Team Updates

Loan Repayment Programs (ACTIVE!!!)

Uniting Communities with Caring Health Professionals

Virginia Loan Repayment Programs are incentive programs to recruit primary care health providers to practice in designated areas. The Virginia Department of Health administers several incentive programs that can help you pay back your loans while you provide valuable care to a vulnerable population. If you are a primary care health professional and have an interest in working in a medically underserved area, then you may be eligible for a loan repayment program. [New detailed information and an online application is now available!](#)

VCOM's Fifth White Coat Ceremony

VCOM's fifth White Coat Ceremony was held on December 1, 2007 on the campus of Virginia Tech with over 1,000 people in attendance. During the ceremony, each first year medical student was cloaked by two faculty members with his/her first white coat. Students also received the "Humanism in Medicine" pin, donated by the Arnold Gold Foundation, and a stethoscope engraved with their name, donated by the Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association (VOMA). The Virginia

Community Healthcare Association co-sponsored the reception, which immediately followed the ceremony.

The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Dr. Eugene Zachary (former Dean at the UNTHSC - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and VCOM Board member); the white coat cloaking; and reading of the Osteopathic Oath. Students were supported by select students in the class of 2010 who were part of the procession, aided in cloaking, and also participated in reading of the Osteopathic Oath.

Dr. Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, explained the purpose of the White Coat Ceremony and tied the purpose of this ceremony which is held on over 100 medical school campuses to VCOM's mission and VCOM's values of: ***Duty, Compassion, Integrity, Patient-Centered Care, Knowledge, and Altruism***. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins also identified the need for caring and compassionate physicians in for society, noting recent trends in healthcare.

"We are pleased that so many families and friends could be with us to celebrate the achievements of our first year students", commented Dr. Jim Wolfe, President of VCOM. "We hold our ceremony at this time of the year so we can recognize the achievements of our students who successfully completed their first block of studies in the basic sciences and will now add early clinical experiences to their basic science education. This is an important milestone in the education of our Student Doctors."

One hundred sixty three students received their white coats at VCOM's December ceremony.

Healthcare Workforce Initiative at VCOM

With increasing attention on healthcare workforce legislation, medical education program development/expansions being considered and mounting public concern about the stability of healthcare workforce, there has never been a greater need to bring to reality through mapping and analyze the quality and quantity of our current healthcare workforce.

The Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data is in the process of collecting physician and ten other non-physician healthcare professional workforce data over the next 6 months that will be utilized for more complete analysis and mapping of the current state and national healthcare workforce. A core set of data elements pertaining to each of the healthcare professions will be attempted to be gathered from state's medical licensure review board and other qualified data sources.

In addition to gathering data on physicians the following non-physicians will be the initial focus of this unprecedented data collection effort: 1) Podiatrist, 2) Physician Assistants, 3) Psychologist, 4) Optometrists, 5) Nurse Practitioners, 6) Naturopaths, 7) Nurse Anesthetists, 8) Physical Therapists, 9) Oral/Maxillofacial surgeons, 10) Pharmacists, 11) Audiologist/Speech Language Pathologists and 12)

Chiropractors.

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Office of Minority Health
& Public Health Policy
Advancing Health Equity For All Virginians